



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

FEB 12 2010

Mr. Dan Check
P.O. Box 3271
Meridian, Mississippi 39303

Dear Mr. Check:

Thank you for your January 22, 2010, facsimile to Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and your February 5, 2010, facsimile to EPA Region 4, concerning an upcoming public hearing and the wastewater discharges and associated permits for two municipal wastewater treatment plants in Meridian, Mississippi.

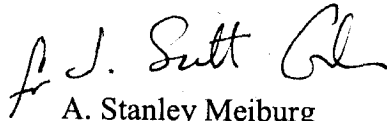
EPA staff contacted the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) regarding your concern that the MDEQ January 21, 2010, public notice was not published. MDEQ confirmed that the public notice, soliciting comment on the draft wastewater discharge permits and announcing a hearing for the two Meridian facilities, was published by the Meridian Star on January 20, 2010. Public notices were also concurrently sent to the Meridian-Lauderdale County Public Library, the Lauderdale County Chancery Clerk's office, and the postmaster for Meridian. MDEQ reiterated that the deadline for the public to provide written comments on the draft wastewater discharge permits is February 24, 2010. Additionally, MDEQ confirmed that the public hearing is scheduled for February 25, 2010.

Since my previous response dated June 10, 2009, EPA has reviewed the draft wastewater discharge permit for each of the two wastewater treatment plants mentioned above. MDEQ satisfactorily addressed any questions raised by EPA during these review processes. Because MDEQ has addressed EPA concerns, EPA representatives will not be attending the public hearing scheduled for February 25, 2010.

Additionally, MDEQ investigated the wastewater overflow that you previously reported. MDEQ has been working with the City of Meridian to identify long-term solutions to address this issue and EPA is monitoring the progress of these efforts. If you identify any new wastewater overflows, please do not hesitate to contact MDEQ at (601) 961-5171 so they can investigate the matter. In addition, please contact the City of Meridian at (601) 485-1976 so they can immediately respond to the incident to minimize any potential impacts to nearby water bodies, such as Sowashee Creek.

We appreciate your desire to protect and preserve the environment and hope you find this information useful. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Stacey Bouma at (404) 562-9392.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Stanley Meiburg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a stylized "M" at the end.

A. Stanley Meiburg
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Ms. Trudy Fisher
Executive Director, MDEQ